



John Reich Journal

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JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues\$25.00
Life Membership\$625.00

For general membership information, letters to the Editor
or articles for publication, please contact:

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Office of the President, David J. Davis
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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: Brockage of 1831 obverse 7 on one side and an incuse impression of obverse 7 on the other
Photo Courtesy of Henry Hilgard.

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John Reich Journal

Official publication of the
John Reich Collectors Society

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Whole No. 60

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Editors' Comments

Another year comes to a close and the promise of a new one is on the horizon. I hope that each of you were able to add something to your collections or learn more about your hobby over the last twelve months.

One of the most recent changes in our organization is the implementation of a JRCS Hall of Fame. We will be electing our first member(s) in 2010. The organization needs you to consider who will be considered for induction into the inaugural class. We need nominations from the membership for candidates in the veteran and current categories. Please consider sending a nomination to us at PO Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030 for consideration. Please include any biographical, historical or pertinent information on why we should consider your nominee for inclusion. The HOF committee will make our choice(s) for induction and the first class will be recognized at the annual meeting scheduled for the ANA convention in Boston.

We are also beginning the planning for the annual EAC convention for 2010. It is scheduled for April 21- 25 in Annapolis, MD. The host hotel is the Doubletree Hotel Annapolis, 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis MD, 21401. The phone number is 410-224-3150. The hotel is convenient to the Baltimore-Washington International Airport. The cost of the convention area is tied to the number of rooms rented under the EAC umbrella. Please let the hotel know you are with the convention when reserving your room.

The die marriages we will be studying at the EAC convention on Thursday evening at the happening will be; 1833 LM3.1-3.5 half dime remarriages, 1834 JR-5 dime which terminates in an obverse cud, 1819 B-4 quarter which comes with interesting die states, 1814 O106 and 1827 O140 R4 bust half dollars. Please bring your coins to the convention for study. We also need volunteers to man the tables at the happening. If you would like to volunteer, please send me an email at jrcs19@roadrunner.com.

The convention begins on Thursday evening with a reception to meet and greet old and new friends. The reception is paid for by donations from the membership. If you would like to make a donation to help pay for the food and drinks you can send a check in any amount to EAC Convention 2010 and mail it to Brett Dudek 1513 Bellona Ave. Apt. B, Lutherville, MD, 21093. After the reception the happening rooms will open. There will be one for the study of colonial coins, half cents, large cents and silver coins. You will be amazed at the coins available for study.

The bourse will open Friday and Saturday from 10AM to 5PM and Sunday from 10 to 3. The annual EAC sale will be conducted on Saturday night with lot viewing available during bourse hours. There will be an educational forum for your enjoyment and education on Friday and Saturday. The programs have not been set yet. If you have a presentation you would like to give at the convention please contact me as soon as possible and I will put you in touch with the forum organizer Chuck Heck. Additionally, on Friday evening Q. David Bowers will be the featured speaker for the convention. The topic of his talk will be "The People, The Events, The Coins, and The Sales." You will not want to miss this entertaining talk!

There will also be tours and events available during the daytime for anyone traveling with you that may not have the same collecting disease. The tours will be scheduled at a latter date and we will report about them in the next issue of the journal. You may even want to schedule a few extra days to enjoy the opportunities offered by the area.

While I was at the recent Baltimore convention I was able to view an interesting coin. It was an 1831 Capped Bust half dollar in a PCGS MS65 slab. The coin was obviously not a MS65 quality coin, but the most interesting thing about it was that it was in a COUNTERFEIT slab. The coin was authentic, but a processed AU/UNC coin. The most telltale sign it was a counterfeit slab was that the barcode on the label was inconsistent. The color of the insert was also not like any I have ever seen on an authentic slab. It goes to show that now, more than ever, you need to actually inspect the coin and not blindly trust the plastic. More education is the only way to protect yourself from falling prey to the criminals invading our hobby.

Half dollar collectors are encouraged to participate in the Capped Bust half dollar R4-8 census scheduled for the next issue of the journal. You can send a copy of your census to me at the PO Box, or email it to me or Steve Herrman who is compiling the information. You can find the information on the marriages being solicited and Steve's email address in the early half dollar census found in this issue. Please consider sending your information early so Steve can compile the information at his leisure.

CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR COLLECTORS

The Capped Bust Half Dollar Census for R4 to R8 varieties is next. Please refer to the table on page 22 for the R4 and better varieties to be included.

The top 15 collections shall be identified by membership number only. Duplicates will be counted and reported as part of the totals. Your personal census will be kept strictly confidential, and shall not used for any other purpose.

Please email your complete inventory listing (including duplicates) of R4 to R8 varieties, and/or any questions, to Steve Herrman at: **Herrman102@aol.com**

Send any written correspondence to the editor at:
**Capped Bust Half Dollar Census,
c/o JRCS, P.O. Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The New John Reich Newsletter

Richard Meaney

After a short hiatus over the summer, the “JR News” is back, this time with a new name, new format, and new editor. I volunteered to take over responsibility from Bill Luebke. Bill did an outstanding job coming up with the concept of the “JR News” and assembling a quality product each week for participants to read. On behalf of all of the JRCS, many thanks to Bill!

The new name of the official electronic newsletter of the John Reich Collectors Society is the “JR Newsletter.” The “JR Newsletter” is in the form of a web log, more commonly known as a “blog.” To view the “JR Newsletter” you should go to the following web address: <http://jrnewsletter.blogspot.com/>

The online blog format allows us to easily contribute, share, view, and comment on information. If you wish to post an article to the blog, simply send it to me via email at jrnewsletter@gmail.com. Feel free to include pictures, which I can easily post along with your submitted articles. At the end of each article, there is a spot for people to comment on the article.

To make comments, all you need to do is click on the “Comments” link that is found at the end of each article. In addition to posting comments using the “Comments” link, you will be able to read comments posted by others.

I realize this change in format from a text-based email to an interactive blog is a significant one. I understand that some may have some technical difficulty using, reading, or responding to the articles posted in the blog. If you have any questions, problems, or suggestions for improvement, please send me an email at jrnewsletter@gmail.com and I will do my best to help you.



UPDATE ON 1827 JR-2 DIME BOOK

By Jim Koenings

In the July, 2009 John Reich Journal, on Page 8, I showed a set of scans of an 1827 JR-2 dime that was sent to me by Kirk Gorman. Since at that time the owner was unknown, I asked the owner to come forward so I could give him credit in my upcoming book on 1827 JR-2 Dimes.

Almost immediately, I received 2 responses. The first was from JRCS #1068, who said he thought it was his coin, but for a couple of very small differences. The second response was from Mike Sherrill, who said it was the coin that he sold to Kirk Gorman, but he also noted one small difference that he couldn't explain. JRCS #1068 did buy his 1827 JR-2 from Kirk Gorman.

Later, JRCS #1068 sent me 2 additional sets of scans of his coin. One set he had scanned the coin out of its holder and the other was a set of scans of the same coin after he had photographed it. He had already sent me a set of scans with the coin in its holder when he replied to my article the first time. We then marveled at how the scans in the Journal and the 3 sets of scans that he had sent me, all looked so different. At that time, we more or less accepted the scans in the Journal as coming from JRCS #1068's coin.

About 5 weeks later, I asked Brad Karoleff to send an email to Steve Carr requesting scans of Steve's 1827 JR-2 dime. A couple of days later, I received Steve's set of scans. Guess what? Even though, the lighting on Steve's coin was much brighter, it was immediately obvious that it matched the scans shown on Page 8 of Journal. Problem solved!

When my book comes out (Presently estimated to be between January, 2010 and April, 2010), I will have it start with the finest known on top and have the worst known last. Presently, I will show Steve's coin as the 31st specimen and JRCS #1068 as the 32nd specimen. Then the readers will be able to see the similarity in these two coins.

Anyone interested in having their 1827 JR-2 shown in my book, should send their scans to bustcoin1@verizon.net.

or you can send photos to:

Jim Koenings
P.O. Box 2382
Riverside, CA 92516



1815 Quarter Die Stage Inquiry

By Glenn Marx

After some recent exchanges with Denis Loring and Steve Tompkins on the 1815 bust quarter, we realized that we shared some common questions on the die stages as listed in the new book "Early United States Quarters 1796 - 1838," authored by Steve. We can confirm most of the stages, but a couple of those listed still elude us. Specifically, we're wondering whether the progression might simply be the following for both obverse and reverses: 1. Die perfect; 2. Single light clashed die, no bars; 3. Double light clashed die, no bars; 4. Die lapped; 5. Single heavy clash, with bars.

We would like to ask JRCS members with examples of 1815 quarters to examine them. If you have a coin with one of the following die stages, please send an email to the address listed at the end of this request.

- Die lapped with die line at fore curl removed on obverse and most clashing removed on reverse

- Double clash obverse, with two lines clearly visible above and through date, arrowheads visible behind/above cap, and WITH bars at ear. Double clash reverse, two lines clearly visible through 25.

- Dies lapped, possibly with light bars at ear and/or outside hair curl at the fore curl removed, with a crack or clashing at *5-6 as in Tompkins obverse DS6.

Thank you!

Glenn Marx

GMari@aol.com



From the Treasurer

By W. David Perkins

JRCS would like to again thank Steve Herrman for his ongoing support of JRCS and for his recent donation of \$290.00 from the sale of his Spring 2009 revision of his Auction & Mail Bid Prices Realized (AMBPR) for Bust Half Dollars 1794-1839. For many years Steve has donated \$2.50 for each copy sold.

And thanks to all the members of JRCS for their donations in 2009, as well as in prior years. A fair number of members send in their annual membership dues with a little extra marked for a donation. It is always appreciated and helps to keep our club's membership dues at a reasonable level.

The die marriages we will be studying at the EAC convention on Thursday evening at the happening will be; 1833 LM3.1-3.5 half dime remarriages, 1834 JR-5 dime which terminates in an obverse cud, 1819 B-4 quarter which comes with interesting die states, 1814 O106 and 1827 O140 R4 bust half dollars. Please bring your coins to the convention for study. We also need volunteers to man the tables at the happening. If you would like to volunteer, please send me an email at jrcs19@roadrunner.com.



Suggestions for Inclusion of Additional Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle Half Dollar Varieties in the Red Book

Bradley Higgins

Compared to Capped Bust half dollars, Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle halves are woefully underrepresented in the Red Book. Perhaps it is time to consider adding some interesting and readily identifiable varieties, striking a balance between collecting by date and collecting by die marriage. As it now stands, the current Red Book set is too basic, sacrificing an opportunity to introduce readers to the rich variety available in this very short series. These coins were made at a time of 'make do' at the mint when dies were too precious to discard due to an engraver's blunder or a broken punch. Or when the size of digits and stars changed during the year because the diesinker had to use what was at hand and where the date on a coin may or may not indicate the year in which it was struck. The principal criterion for inclusion of additional varieties in this paper is that they must be easily recognizable and not minute positional variations.

1801 and 1802 don't have much to offer in the way of interesting varieties so the first candidates are found on 1803 dated¹ halves. There are two distinct star sizes on the reverses of 1803 halves, so 1803 might include the following-

1803 large 3, small reverse stars (O.101, O.102) (*Pictured Below Left*)

1803 large 3, large reverse stars (O.103) (*Pictured Below Right*)

1803 small 3, large reverse stars (O.104)



Small Stars



Large Stars

The year 1805 is currently represented by only 1805/4 and a hopelessly generic '1805'. The current 1805/4 should be separated into 1805/4, narrow overdate and 1805/4, wide overdate. The reasons for this split are that, as stated, there is a noticeable difference in the spacing of the date and the 5/4 on the wide overdate is much more pronounced; it is the most striking overdate in all of U.S. numismatics. Art Kagin suggested in 1964 that when this variety was included in the Red Book, it would be as sought after as the 1817/4. The third addition might be 1805, obverse of 1803, depicting the obverse detail from the hub of 1801 to early 1805, represented by O.110-113. The fourth listing would represent an impression from the new hub of 1805, O.104-O.109. These two obverses can be readily distinguished by the top left curl and trailing end of the hair ribbon. The fifth listing could be 1805, small 5 as represented by O.107 and O.114. The list for 1805 would then contain the following:

1805 narrow overdate (O.101 and 102)

1805/4 wide overdate- (O.103) (*Pictured Below Right*)

1805 obverse of 1803 (O.110-113-note higher top left curl, trailing end of hair ribbon)

1805 obverse of 1805 (O.104-109-note lowered top left curl, trailing end of hair ribbon)

1805 small 5 (O.107, .114) (*Pictured Below Left*)



Small 5



Wide Overdate

The Red Book listings for 1806 are currently a bit chaotic. To bring clarity and order to this year the first listing could be 1806/5 narrow overdate as represented by O.101-103. Next might be 1806/5 wide overdate, O.104, which features a wider date and more apparent under type than the other overdated die used for O.101-103. This deserves its own listing as it is the only overdated half where the die was actually used in the previous year, overdated, and used again. The third listing could be 1806, round top 6, recut T, represented by O.105. These listings all have large stars. The 4th listing is 1806, round top 6, small obverse stars, represented by O.106 and O.107. Following would be 1806 round top 6, no stem, O.108, then 1806 pointed 6, no stem. The 7th listing is 1806, pointed 6, large obverse stars unique to the rare O.110. Following that, 1806 recut TY, is another possibility, represented by O.114-O.116. The 10th and final listing might be O.124, E/A on reverse, with the 1806 listings as follows:

1806/5 narrow overdate (O.101-103)

1806/5 wide overdate (O.104)

1806 round top 6, recut T (O.105)

1806 round top 6, small stars (O.106, 107)

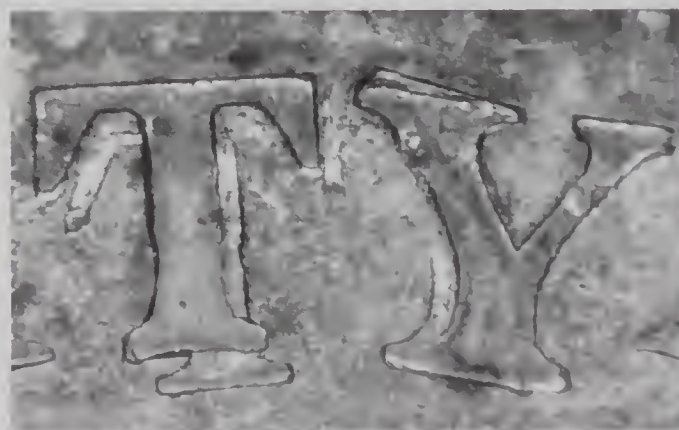
1806 round top 6, no stem (O.108)

1806 pointed 6, no stem (O.109)

1806 pointed 6, large obverse stars (O.110) *(Pictured Above)*

1806 6/inverted 6 (O.111, 112)

1806 recut TY (O.114-116) *(Pictured Right)*



1806 E/A (O.124) (*Pictured Right*)

1807 doesn't offer all the different varieties of the previous year but could be expanded to three listings, these being:

1807 reverse of 1806, featuring the reverse of 1806 O.117 with its broken serif on F (O.108-110) (*Pictured Below Left*)

1807 reverse of 1807
(O.101-106)

1807 long stem, featuring the stem cut all the way to the rim, the result of a graver's accidental slip (O.107) (*Pictured Below Right*)

These new inclusions would offer a closer look at a brief series which left us with a bounty of interesting and readily observable recut letters, graver's slips, overdates, mismatched numerals, and ever changing star sizes.



Broken Serif on F



References

Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836 Third Edition , Al C. Overton

A Guide Book of United States Coins Professional Edition, R.S. Yeoman



Why I Recently Started Collecting Bust Half Dimes (And how I found the 1833 LM-5)

Wes Chormicle

First, since I just recently started collecting Capped Bust Half dimes and joining the JRCS, I think an introduction is in order. I am probably like many, in that I started collecting, "Pennies" back in 1963 when I was 11 years old. I was at my best friend's house one day as his father was going through some very old coins. I asked some questions, and each was answered in a kind and caring manner. I remember him showing me several Large Cents and Half Cents and explaining to me the different types. As it turned out, he invited me to come to a coin show a few weeks later so I could see a plethora of coins. I remember seeing a 1955/55 Lincoln Cent, and buckets of coins to look through. I was hooked....

My father was a window clerk at the Post Office in Santa Barbara, CA where I grew up. One of his responsibilities was to make sure the stamp machine was full of change before he came home Friday nights. Each and every Friday evening for several years, Dad walked into the house carrying 10 rolls of cents. I carefully studied every cent and placed the ones I needed in a crisp new blue Whitman folder. I would replace the coins I had taken, and on Monday mornings Dad would take the \$5 worth of Lincolns back to work with him. After a long while, I did managed to find every coin except the 09-S & 09-S VDB. The Red Book that I had earlier begged my mother to purchase for me was well used as I went through my treasures.

Over the next couple of decades, my ability to collect waxed and waned, although my interest did not. Before I was married, I explained to my fiancé that I collected coins. Paying more than face value for a coin was a concept she was not willing to grasp. One day I convinced her to come to the Long Beach Coin Show to look at and experience the magic of a coin minted so long ago that George Washington himself may have had that EXACT coin in his pocket. That was met by a resounding, "So?". She followed me around trying to look interested but failed miserably at it. Soon I happened to find a rare variety of an Indian Cent that the dealer who had it was unaware of. I purchased it for \$150, as my soon to be wife was starting to question my sanity. We walked across the hall and sold it to another dealer for \$250. From that moment on, she decided that I was not as deranged as she had first thought.

Fast forward a goodly number of years. The Lincoln set was finished in all AU-BU coins, as was the Indian Cent set. Soon the Morgan and Peace Dollar sets were completed along with various other late 19th century sets. A couple of years ago I completed a PCGS PR64 set of Liberty Nickels. By now I realized that probably

every one of my sets could be put together at one or two major coin shows as long as you had a pocket full of cash. It was time for a challenge.

My good friend and occasional business partner had been (and still is) working on his Overton set of Bust Half Dollars in AU or better. He has close to 400 of the varieties and has been working on this for more than a decade. His set is esthetically incredible, financially huge, and almost impossible to complete without massively deep pockets. While photographing his collection, I really became enthralled with the whole die marriage concept. The problem for me was the cost (at least in the XF-AU grades that I would want to do). It is also for me, difficult to start a set like that knowing that in all likelihood I could never finish it.

Enter the Capped Bust Half Dime. Just over 120 die marriages and remarriages, plus the fact that they were not as widely and heavily collected and their big brothers. The other big plus (for me anyway), was that I could buy AU coins in the \$200-\$300 range. I snooped around the Internet, browsed dealer websites, and asked questions. Once I made the decision to focus on Half Dimes, I found the Logan & McCloskey book (no easy task) which arrived by mail the day before I was to attend a coin show.

Armed with the "Book", a new Excel spreadsheet, and a pocket full of money, I headed to the show. I have to admit, as I sat at different dealers' tables, I started to feel like that 10 year old kid again going through rolls of Lincoln Cents! At that first show, I found one R-6 and a couple of R-5's. That was such a rush; it just pumped me full of the enthusiasm that had been slowly depleted over the years.

Over the next couple of months attending at least one show a month, I found another couple of R-5's and another R-6. I was really having a good time with this! I also started searching online dealer websites along with eBay. Then one day on eBay, I saw a listing for an 1833 Half Dime. The pictures were not great, but clear enough to attribute the variety. I looked at it, and looked at it, and looked again. In fact, I went so far as to copy the photo's into Photoshop, and then layer the image from the Logan collection on to it. I tweaked, resized, and edited the eBay image and was shocked to see that it was the elusive 1933 LM-5 in what appeared to be a very strong VF grade.

The auction was in its second day of a seven day auction with the bid at \$80 some odd dollars which was the opening bid. I emailed the seller to verify that the obverse and reverse pictures were indeed of the actual coin being auctioned. I then placed a bid at just over \$90 to see where the first bidders bid level was at. For the next 5 days I watched the auction constantly, and the bid stayed put. The couple of hours before the

auction closed, I checked my PayPal balance which was a bit over \$2000, and entered that amount in my Snipe program. Then I waited, sweated, took a couple of Tums, waited and sweated some more. Five minutes left, no bid movement, two minutes, no bid movement; one minute no bid movement and man alive are my palms sweaty. Twenty seconds left, bid goes up, but only to about \$150. Ten seconds and it's bumped to \$200, three seconds left and my snipe bid kicks in and shows me the leader at \$260. I quickly refreshed the page, expecting to see the winner at one bid increment over my top snipe bid. The page comes up that I was the winner at \$260! My immediate reaction is that I MUST have made a mistake in attributing it. Surely those that have hunted this variety for years or decades would have seen this. Quickly over to the "Pay Now" button and completed payment. A quick email to the seller about how soon he would ship, and he replied almost right away thanking me for the quick payment and telling me it would go out that day.

The right side of my brain wanted to yell out to everyone, "Look what I got, look what I got!!" Fortunately, the left side of my brain took control and told me to keep my mouth shut until the coin arrived. Three days later it showed up at my P.O. Box. Nicer by far than the sellers image portrayed it to be. My first R-7 coin!

This was a GREAT experience, but I don't know if my heart and stomach can handle another one like it.



1833 LM-5 JRCS Stock Photo

Pre-Turban Bust Half Dollar Census

Stephen J. Herrman

Since the last Pre-Turban Bust Half Dollar Census for 1794 to 1807 appeared in the April 2007 issue of the John Reich Journal, several major collections have been dispersed. In early 2007, the market for the early half dollars had been trending strongly upwards for several years, and it continued that trend through the first half of 2008. However, things cooled considerably after the worldwide economic downturn in the latter part of 2008. It is interesting to note that the number of specimens reported for the current census is considerably fewer than reported in April 2007 with an overall lower average grade.

After a mini-flurry of newly confirmed die marriages in recent years, namely, the 1807 O.115 in June 2004 (4 known), the 1806 O.129 in October 2005 (unique), and the 1806 O.130 in February 2007 (unique), no new varieties have been reported. Thus, the number of known Pre-Turban die marriages continues to stand at 108. Not included in the count is the 1795 O.118 which remains unknown. While included in the count, the 1794 O.109 has not been confirmed as a business strike to the satisfaction of some students of the series.

The rarity rating estimates used in this census report are based on the Bust Half Nut Club (BHNC) study presented at the August 2004 ANA, and published in the June 2005 John Reich Journal. The rarity rating estimates for a few varieties were adjusted since new examples have appeared.

Following is a reference table listing the rarity rating levels used in this census report.

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Est Nbr</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Est Nbr</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Est Nbr</u>
R8	1-3	R6-	25-30	R4-	161-200
R7+	4-6	R5+	31-46	R3+	201-300
R7	7-9	R5	47-63	R3	301-500
R7-	10-12	R5-	64-80	R2	501-1000
R6+	13-18	R4+	81-120	R1	over 1000
R6	19-24	R4	121-160		

The **Pre-Turban Half Dollar Census – Top 15 Collections** table contains the census of the top 15 collections submitted. With the exception of two collections which were submitted anonymously, each collection is identified by the submitter’s JRCS membership number. The **Pre-Turban Half Dollar Census By Grade** table contains the census by grade of the top coins for each variety, as graded by the submitters.

PRE-TURBAN HALF DOLLAR CENSUS – TOP 15 COLLECTIONS																				
YEAR	VAR	R.	140	957	692	951	323	978	1009	A1	1086	578	049	945	A2	1261	856	TOT	AVG	MAX
1794	101	3+	12	10					15									4	10	15
	102	6+	10	6														2	8	10
	103	5+	8		8													2	8	8
	104	5	10	12	8													3	10	12
	105	5	20				8						4					4	14	25
	106	6-	6		10	8												3	8	10
	107	6	15							18								2	17	18
	108	7			15													1	15	15
	109	8																		
	110	7+																		
	111	8																		
1795	101	7																		
	102	4	15	12	12	10												4	12	15
	103	5	6	20	15	8												6	11	20
	104	4	6	10	20													3	12	20
	105	3+	12	15	35	8	15			58			15					8	21	58
	106	6	12	20														2	16	20
	107	5	10	8	15	10	10				4							6	10	15
	108	4	8	15		10												3	11	15
	109	4	12	10		10	15						10					6	17	45
	110	3	8	15	12		10						12				8	6	11	15
	111	4+	6	10	18	8	2			25								6	12	25
	112	4	8	12		12	8			25			8				8	8	15	40
	113	3	4	15	12	6	8	6		20	4				8			10	9	20
	114	6	8	15	5						8							5	8	15
	115	5	8	15		20	8											4	13	20
	116	4	8	25		10	10			10	2							6	11	25
	117	4	8	8	20										8			6	10	20
	118	–																		
	119	4	12	20		12									8	12		5	13	20
	120	7-	20															1	20	20
	121	4+	8	35	25	8	8											5	17	35
	122	5	8	10	15	10							4					5	9	15
	123	7-	12	30														2	21	30
	124	5	4	20	20	10					6					8		6	11	20
	125	4	12	15														2	14	15
	126	4+	12	10			8			18								5	13	18
	127	6+	4	10			12			8								5	7	12

PRE-TURBAN HALF DOLLAR CENSUS – TOP 15 COLLECTIONS																				
YEAR	VAR	R.	140	957	692	951	323	978	1009	A1	1086	578	049	945	A2	1261	856	TOT	AVG	MAX
1795	128	5+	8	8	10	10	8			8	6							7	8	10
	129	5	8	25	15	20												5	23	45
	130	5-	12	15														2	14	15
	131	4+	12	12	15					30	2							5	14	30
	132	8																		
1796	101	5								15								1	15	15
	102	5+								15								1	15	15
1797	101	4+								20								1	20	20
	102	6-																		
1801	101	3	12	20	20	15	30	12	25	48	8	25			8	12		14	21	48
	102	4+	12	25	40	8	20	35	25				12			12		9	21	40
1802	101	3	20	20	35	15	10	35	45	48			35			30	45	13	34	55
1803	101	3	12	30	15	20	15	20	30		15	25	12			40		13	23	45
	102	3+	20	30	35	10	15	20	40		25		12	20		20		13	21	40
	103	3	20	45	25	40	12	35	45	50	40	35	15		15	30	40	17	32	58
	104	3	40	45	35	20	10	25	35	40	15		20	45		30	30	18	30	55
1805	101	3	20	40	25	15	10	20		30		40	15	20				12	26	50
	102	3	20	30	20	8	15	25	30		20		8	20	40	30		17	23	45
	103	5+	20	25		12	10	20	20	8				45				9	21	45
	104	5-	20	50	30	8	12	35	25					40		12		16	25	50
	105	5	30	40	18	6	20	30	30			15		40				13	25	40
	106	3+	30	25	25	20	30	30				20	15	40				10	24	40
	107	5	12	40	20	15	8	10	40	53				40				10	25	53
	108	4+	12	15	15		12	45			8			25			25	10	18	45
	109	4-	12	40	20	12	35	30	25	45	25		10	8	10	20		16	23	45
	110	5	12	30	35	10	20	30	40					20				8	25	40
	111	2	20	25	30	20	12	30			20		15		20		20	17	25	58
	112	2	12	35	25	20	35	15	53	30	30			12	10	30		14	27	53
	113	4+	20	25	25	15	35	15		45	25	20		20				13	22	45
	114	8																		
1806	101	3	30	40	15	10	15	35	20					20				11	22	40
	102	3+	8	35	25	12	15	35		50	20		15			8		12	24	58
	103	2	20	50	35	12	15	30	20		10			30	30		30	16	24	53
	104	4	20	40	25	20	20	30	40	35	15	40	20	45	20			24	22	45
	105	2	40	40	15	15	20	15	20	18	10	40	20		8		45	17	22	45
	106	4	30	40	25	35	25	12	45		15	30	30	12				12	30	55
	107	4+	20	30	20	20	40	35	35			30	30	45		12		13	26	45
	108	7																		

PRE-TURBAN HALF DOLLAR CENSUS – TOP 15 COLLECTIONS

YEAR	VAR	R.	140	957	692	951	323	978	1009	A1	1086	578	049	945	A2	1261	856	TOT	AVG	MAX
1806	109	1	20	40	35	40	12	12	30	50	20	25	12		20	12	25	23	26	50
	110	6	25	8	12					35								5	23	35
	111	3	15	30	20	15	8	40	15		8	30	15	15	15			17	21	55
	112	4	15	15	25	10	15	20	45	40	6	35	12			8		15	23	45
	113	5	15	40	45	25	30	15	45									7	31	45
	114	4	8	35	20	12	30	40	40	40		30		40				11	30	40
	115	1	12	45	25	35	12	12	50			45	15		20	30		21	25	50
	116	3	40	50	30	50	15	30	20		12	20			10		30	12	27	50
	117	5-	8	40	20	12	8	30	40		10	10						9	20	40
	118	3	30	45		20	12	10				40	20					9	23	45
	119	3	20	35	30	12	8	20	40			40			6		20	14	24	58
	120	3	40	35	25	8	15	30	30	53	15	25		4	15			21	22	53
	121	4	8	20	35	10	8	35	40	45	25	20	15		15			14	26	58
	122	6+	8	8	20		20	8		40								6	17	40
	123	5-	30	40	35	8	20	15	20	60								9	29	60
	124	6	8	30			12	8	35			15						7	18	35
	125	5	20	30	20		12	15		40		15	25	20				10	21	40
	126	7-		15				15				25						3	18	25
	127	6+		3						12		12						3	9	12
	128	8																		
	129	8																		
	130	8																		
1807	101	5	15	20	15	25	8	15	20									8	16	25
	102	2	40	50	35	40	20	35		50	8	40			12	35	8	16	28	50
	103	3	40	35	15	40	8	25			4	50					20	14	21	50
	104	5-	12	40	15	15		40	53			25		25				11	28	53
	105	1	20	30	20	12	20	15	30	45	10	25	12	10	10	4	40	22	24	58
	106	3	20	35	35	20	8	20			15	25			25			11	23	35
	107	4+	30	45	30	8	12	15			15			12				10	21	45
	108	3	12	45	25	20	15	12	25		20	35		20	15	8		14	21	45
	109	3	12	30	12	25	4	35	40		20		15	20				15	18	40
	110	2	15	30	40	30	15	35	45		25	40	15		15	45	40	18	28	45
	115	7+		12														1	12	12
TOTAL VARS			90	88	71	67	66	55	41	38	38	33	32	28	24	22	16	891	21.9	
AVG GRADE			16	26	22	16	15	24	33	34	14	29	15	25	15	20	27			

PRE-TURBAN HALF DOLLAR CENSUS BY GRADE

YEAR	VAR	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	TOT	AVG	MAX
1794	101	3+	15	12	10	4												4	10	15
	102	6+	10	6														2	8	10
	103	5+	8	8														2	8	8
	104	5	12	10	8													3	10	12
	105	5	25	20	8	4												4	14	25
	106	6-	10	8	6													3	8	10
	107	6	18	15														2	17	18
	108	7	15															1	15	15
	109	8																		
	110	7+																		
	111	8																		
1795	101	7																		
	102	4	15	12	12	10												4	12	15
	103	5	20	15	10	8	6	4										6	11	20
	104	4	20	10	6													3	12	20
	105	3+	58	35	15	15	15	12	10	8								8	21	58
	106	6	20	12														2	16	20
	107	5	15	10	10	10	8	4										6	10	15
	108	4	15	10	8													3	11	15
	109	4	45	15	12	10	10	10										8	17	45
	110	3	15	12	12	10	8	8										8	11	15
	111	4+	25	18	10	6	6	2										8	12	25
	112	4	40	25	12	12	8	8	8	8								8	15	40
	113	3	20	15	12	8	8	8	6	6	4	4						10	9	20
	114	6	15	8	8	6	5											5	8	15
	115	5	20	15	8	8												4	13	20
	116	4	25	10	10	10	8	2										6	11	25
	117	4	20	10	8	8	8	8										6	10	20
	118	-																		
	119	4	20	12	12	12	8											5	13	20
	120	7-	20															1	20	20
	121	4+	35	25	8	8	8											5	17	35
	122	5	15	10	10	8	4											5	9	15
	123	7-	30	12														2	21	30
	124	5	20	20	10	8	8	4										8	11	20
	125	4	15	12														2	14	15
	126	4+	18	15	12	10	8											5	13	18
	127	6+	12	10	8	4	3											5	7	12

PRE-TURBAN HALF DOLLAR CENSUS BY GRADE																				
YEAR	VAR	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	TOT	AVG	MAX
1795	128	5+	10	10	8	8	8	8	6									7	8	10
	129	5	45	25	20	15	8											5	23	45
	130	5-	15	12														2	14	15
	131	4+	30	15	12	12	2											5	14	30
	132	8																		
1796	101	5	15															1	15	15
	102	5+	15															1	15	15
1797	101	4+	20															1	20	20
	102	6-																		
1801	101	3	48	45	30	25	25	20	20	15	12	12	12	10	8	8		14	21	48
	102	4+	40	35	25	25	20	12	12	12	8							9	21	40
1802	101	3	55	53	48	45	45	35	35	35	30	20	20	15	10			13	34	55
1803	101	3	45	40	30	30	25	25	20	20	15	15	15	12	12			13	23	45
	102	3+	40	35	30	25	20	20	20	20	15	15	12	12	10			13	21	40
	103	3	58	50	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	25	20	15	15	17	32	58
	104	3	55	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	25	25	20	20	20	18	30	55
1805	101	3	50	40	40	30	25	25	20	20	20	15	15	10				12	26	50
	102	3	45	40	40	30	30	30	25	20	20	20	20	20	15	15	8	17	23	45
	103	5+	45	30	25	20	20	20	12	10	8							9	21	45
	104	5-	50	45	40	40	35	30	30	25	20	15	12	12	12	12	8	16	25	50
	105	5	40	40	35	30	30	30	20	20	20	18	15	15	6			13	25	40
	106	3+	40	30	30	30	25	25	20	20	15	8						10	24	40
	107	5	53	40	40	40	20	15	12	12	10	8						10	25	53
	108	4+	45	25	25	15	15	12	12	12	10	8						10	18	45
	109	4-	45	45	40	35	30	25	25	20	20	20	12	12	12	10	10	16	23	45
	110	5	40	35	30	30	20	20	12	10								8	25	40
	111	2	58	53	40	30	30	30	25	20	20	20	20	20	15	15	15	17	25	58
	112	2	53	35	35	35	30	30	30	30	25	20	15	12	12	10		14	27	53
	113	4+	45	35	25	25	25	25	20	20	20	15	15	12	4			13	22	45
	114	8																		
1806	101	3	40	40	35	30	20	20	15	15	15	10	6					11	22	40
	102	3+	58	50	35	35	25	20	15	15	12	12	8	8				12	24	58
	103	2	53	50	35	30	30	30	30	20	20	15	12	12	12	10	10	16	24	53
	104	4	45	40	40	40	35	30	30	25	20	20	20	20	20	20	15	24	22	45
	105	2	45	40	40	40	30	20	20	20	20	18	15	15	15	12	10	17	22	45
	106	4	55	45	40	35	30	30	30	25	25	15	12	12				12	30	55
	107	4+	45	40	35	35	30	30	30	20	20	20	12	12	10			13	26	45
	108	7																		

PRE-TURBAN HALF DOLLAR CENSUS BY GRADE

YEAR	VAR	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	TOT	AVG	MAX
1806	109	1	50	50	45	40	40	40	35	35	30	25	25	20	20	20	20	23	26	50
	110	6	35	35	25	12	8											5	23	35
	111	3	55	40	35	30	30	20	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	8	17	21	55
	112	4	45	45	45	40	35	25	20	15	15	15	15	12	10	8	6	15	23	45
	113	5	45	45	40	30	25	15	15									7	31	45
	114	4	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	20	12	8					11	30	40
	115	1	50	50	45	45	35	30	30	30	30	25	20	20	20	15	15	21	25	50
	116	3	50	50	40	30	30	30	20	20	15	12	12	10				12	27	50
	117	5-	40	40	30	20	12	10	10	8	8							9	20	40
	118	3	45	40	30	20	20	20	12	10	8							9	23	45
	119	3	58	40	40	35	30	25	20	20	20	12	12	10	8	6		14	24	58
	120	3	53	45	40	35	30	30	25	25	20	20	20	15	15	15	12	21	22	53
	121	4	58	45	40	35	35	35	25	20	20	15	15	10	8	8		14	26	58
	122	6+	40	20	20	8	8	8										6	17	40
	123	5-	60	40	35	30	30	20	20	15	8							9	29	60
	124	6	35	30	20	15	12	8	8									7	18	35
	125	5	40	30	25	20	20	20	15	15	15	12						10	21	40
	126	7-	25	15	15													3	18	25
	127	6+	12	12	3													3	9	12
	128	8																		
	129	8																		
	130	8																		
1807	101	5	25	20	20	15	15	15	12	8								8	16	25
	102	2	50	50	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	20	15	12	10	8	8	16	28	50
	103	3	50	40	40	35	25	20	20	15	15	12	8	8	4	4		14	21	50
	104	5-	53	40	40	40	35	25	25	15	15	12	8					11	28	53
	105	1	58	50	45	40	40	30	30	30	25	20	20	20	20	15	12	22	28	58
	105	3	35	35	25	25	25	20	20	20	20	15	8					11	23	35
	107	4+	45	30	30	30	15	15	12	12	12	8						10	21	45
	108	3	45	35	30	25	25	20	20	20	15	15	12	12	12	8		14	21	45
	109	3	40	35	30	25	20	20	15	15	15	12	12	10	8	8	4	15	18	40
	110	2	45	45	45	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	25	20	15	15	15	18	28	45
	115	7+	12															1	12	12
TOTAL VARS			97	91	84	78	74	65	56	53	49	44	38	34	30	24	18	891	21.9	
AVG GRADE			35	29	26	24	22	21	21	19	18	16	15	14	13	12	12			

CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR COLLECTORS

The Capped Bust Half Dollar Census for R4 to R8 varieties is next. Please refer to the table below for the R4 and better varieties to be included.

The top 15 collections shall be identified by membership number only. Duplicates will be counted and reported as part of the totals. Your personal census will be kept strictly confidential, and shall not be used for any other purpose.

Please email your complete inventory listing (including duplicates) of R4 to R8 varieties, and/or any questions, to Steve Herrman at: Herrman102@aol.com

Send any written correspondence to the editor at: Capped Bust Half Dollar Census, c/o JRCS, P.O. Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Varieties

<u>Year</u> <u>Var</u> <u>R.</u>	<u>Year</u> <u>Var</u> <u>R.</u>	<u>Year</u> <u>Var</u> <u>R.</u>	<u>Year</u> <u>Var</u> <u>R.</u>	<u>Year</u> <u>Var</u> <u>R.</u>
1807 111 4+	1818 110 4	1826 114 4+	1827 138 4	1831 117 4
1808 110 4+	1818 115 4+	1826 115 5-	1827 139 4-	1831 120 6
1809 101 5	1819 103 4	1826 119 4-	1827 140 4+	1832 109 4
1809 104 5-	1819 106 4	1826 120 4-	1827 144 5+	1832 114 4+
1809 108 4	1820 104 4+	1827 103 4	1827 145 5	1832 117 4+
1809 110 4+	1820 107 5	1827 108 4-	1827 147 4	1832 119 4-
1809 112 5-	1822 102 4+	1827 109 4-	1827 148 6+	1832 123 7
1809 113 5	1822 103 5-	1827 110 4-	1827 149 8	1833 111 4+
1809 114 5	1822 112 4	1827 111 4	1828 105 5	1833 115 5+
1811 102 4	1823 102 4	1827 113 4-	1828 106 4+	1833 116 7
1811 107 4	1823 109 5+	1827 116 4+	1828 111 4	1834 118 4
1811 112 4-	1823 113 7	1827 122 5	1828 123 5+	1834 119 4
1811 113 5	1824 102 5+	1827 123 5-	1829 106 5-	1834 120 4
1812 101 5-	1824 112 4	1827 124 5+	1829 109 4+	1834 122 7
1813 102 4	1824 114 5-	1827 127 5	1829 118 4+	1835 111 8
1813 104 4	1825 103 4-	1827 128 4-	1829 120 8	1836 103 4-
1814 106 4+	1825 104 4+	1827 129 4-	1830 105 4	1836 105 4-
1817 102 7	1825 109 5	1827 133 4	1830 112 4+	1836 107 4
1817 104 6	1825 117 4	1827 134 4	1830 114 5	1836 120 4-
1817 105 4-	1825 118 8	1827 136 4	1831 113 4	1836 121 5+
1817 108 4	1826 103 5-	1827 137 6	1831 115 4	1836 123 4

Capped Bust Half-Dollar Secrets: Broken Legend and Number Punches

Edgar E. Souders, NLG

In the fall of 2008, I was sitting in my den, staring at a die (hub) of an American eagle through my stereomicroscope. I was attempting to study hand-engraving technique, of feather detail, and had been at it for a couple of hours. Becoming tired and blurry eyed, I decided to stop, sat back, rubbed my eyes, and removed the hub from beneath the microscope head. Thinking about calling it a day, I noticed a couple of Capped Bust halves I had set aside for a later close observation. Both were nice Choice Extremely Fine pieces dated 1811 and 1812. I placed the 1811 on a velvet pad, and slid the pad under the scope head, first examining all the devices on the obverse. I made a couple notes, and then carefully turned it over to the reverse. As I focused the microscope headpiece I was jolted awake by something I wasn't expecting; Centered perfectly beneath, was the "D" of "UNITED", filling up my entire field of view, and that D was very, very different indeed. How could I have missed this before on an 1811 O-109? I know I've examined perhaps a few dozen 1811, O-109's in the past, but I couldn't believe that, until now, this odd feature had escaped me. But there it was; The "D" was completely broken off at the top, from a broken punch, and John Reich had then hand engraved the top back on to complete it! How exciting!

I zoomed in and kicked up magnification to 100X. I could see where Reich had started the cut with the graver at the upper outside curve of the D and completed it, somewhat hurriedly, close to, but not quite touching the upright of the "D" letter. The difference in the pressure, used to remove the metal from the working die, was visible (Fig. 3.), and he had worked the end at the outside curve of the D, more so than the connection at the stand. Judging from the crudeness of the cut, my guess would be that he did it without the aid of a loupe. That tiny graver cut became the start of this punch study. So, pull out your coins, get out the loupe or microscope, and let's venture into another tale of Capped Bust Half-Dollar Secrets – The Broken Legend and Number Punches.

The next day, I decided that I would attempt to find other examples of broken punches used in the creation of all the Capped Bust half-dollar working dies for the entire series. A few would be easy, as they were already made famous and noted by Overton, Peterson, and also in Bust Half Fever – like, for example, the 1823 "Patched 3". But others, like this 1811, O-109 mentioned above would now come to light.

I decided to search for those punches that were used in broken condition, and then corrected, and also those broken punches that were punched in, then simply left "as is," or uncorrected. Perhaps with this later category, the engraver's initial thought was that the punch damage wasn't considered bad enough to require correction, or, at least not obvious enough to where the Director of the Mint, or even the average citizen, would notice the flaw.

Of course, since there were well over 400 different marriages to examine, both obverse (date numerals) and reverse (legend letters and denomination figures) this was going to take awhile! Note, too, that for most of these varieties of the 450 examined in this study, I have actually examined each and every one, personally under the microscope with very few exceptions. I did this so I could better understand not only where repairs were made, but also how the repairs were made, all the while trying to get a glimpse of the time period, the specific engraver, and his professional engraving style. Some pieces were necessary for me to borrow from fellow collectors, due to the fact that my set piece was a late die state example, or that I didn't have the marriage. And also because sometimes I needed an early die state piece for photo purposes, or just to check and make sure that a serif didn't show even on the earliest die state of the half in question. For a select few, like the rare 1817/14, and others, I would have to rely on my ever-growing computer image database files for the answer.

Punch Sets

Since we have some of the records showing purchase dates, for sets of date and letter punches, I think we should review that information first. I have always wondered why there were stretches where punches appeared to have lasted a good number of years, and then all of a sudden, the Mint purchased two sets, one right after the other. Better punches? Stronger metal? Hardened better? Or, was it simply a matter of the written records not existing anymore, somehow misplaced, or inadvertently destroyed? Unfortunately, with Capped Bust half documentation, and early Mint documentation in general, this line of thought has oftentimes proven to be the case. However, there was another thing to consider, and that was - "to narrow a viewpoint".

Factually, we know that the first punch set used on Capped Bust Halves was a partial carryover of available punches from the earlier Draped Bust halves. Other than physically existing, to my knowledge we have no purchase date for this set. Nevertheless, the dual usage of this set can be seen, and compared to the numerals on that earlier series, in 1807 (Draped Bust), and to the later halves of the new Capped Bust style in late 1807. For example, if you examine the "5" numeral, of both Design Types, first used on the date area of the Draped Bust design in 1805, you can see through computer overlays, combined with microscopic flaw evidence, that the punch used was exactly the same as the one used for the reverse denomination area of the 1807 Capped Bust design type. You will also note that the "5" punch on the 1805 Draped Bust date is a much smaller punch, in size, than the other numerals making up the rest of the date. Still another example would be the "7" numeral date punch of the 1807 Draped Bust series, which is the exact same "7" punch that was used for the 1807 Capped Bust obverse dies. Frugality at the First Mint was always the order of the day!

The few surviving records from this time period show that the Mint purchased a set of punches from Richard Starr (of Starr Brothers punch manufacturing fame), on February 24th, 1819. Five years later Henry Starr sold the Mint a new set of punches in 1824. The very next year Charles Gobrecht was paid for punches (letters and gravers) on January 27th, of 1825. Obviously, this is great information to have, for this seven-year period, but these were not the only punch sets purchased by the Mint. Rather they are the only surviving records, to date, stating punch set purchases. Therefore, this information only gives us a loose clue as to how often punch sets were replaced, and it does tell us that the Mint did not manufacture their own punches. Further, it is likely, for some years, only a few certain punches were replaced. But here is one of the “larger viewpoint things” to consider; all of this documentation does not mean these punch sets mentioned were purchased only for the creation of the Capped Bust halves! During this time period of 1807-1836 the Mint was also making Half-Cents, Large-Cents, Half-Dimes, Dimes, Quarters, and gold Capped Bust Quarter and Half Eagles. So, it is wise to keep this bigger picture in mind. Nevertheless, we do know for a fact, that other complete punch sets were purchased specifically for the Capped Bust Half dollars in the 1807- 1836 period. Why? Because we can view the results on the surviving halves today. Also, as an overall rule, punch letters and numeral sizes, were made smaller, as we continued thorough the years of the Capped Bust half series. And, later, the reduction of punch, star and device sizes, through the constant tinkering by Chief Engraver William Kneass, gave today’s collectors something very exciting to study and attempt to better understand. This tinkering and experimentation continued until the very end of the lettered-edge Design Type in 1836.

The legend letter and numeral punches were likely grouped, perhaps in flat wooden tray-like box, by size/type, and further categorized by actual specific letter and numeral kind. This way, a more exacting visual record could be noted of existing punches, and specific damaged punches could be more quickly replaced as needed. Considering the thriftiness of the First Mint this makes perfectly good sense. Actually this wasn’t as big a deal as it first sounds, because after all, for a “complete” set of punches for the reverse legend lettering on Capped Bust Half working dies, there were only thirteen punches needed – A, C, D, E, F, I, M, N O, R, S, T and U. And only eleven numeral punches were necessary for the date and denomination (including the period (.). Thus, a total of twenty-four punches were required to finish the working dies, (not counting Star punches). Interestingly, as far as the other smaller letter punches go, these smaller versions were used to a much lesser extent for the creation of the HUB, not the working dies, and only seven were necessary for the obverse “LIBERTY” headband, and ten punches for “E PLURIBUS UNUM” on the scroll. Since these smaller punch sets were not used for working die creation, the likelihood of one of these punches breaking was far more remote. I feel certain that these smaller punch groups were not

only sorted separately, but their storage was probably protected even more (heavily greased), due to less frequent use.

A final consideration, in understanding individual punches, is that certain punches lasted longer, or a shorter length of time, for different reasons. As an example, a punch could have been hardened too much, and become brittle. Then too, a punch could have been damaged more easily due to complexity of shape, like the “D”, or more complex “R”, with their closed loop areas with sharp corners, within the letter figure. That is to say, as opposed to the “I”, or “U” letter punch, where the metal of the working die, or hub, could flow more freely away from the punch upon impact. Additionally, certain legend letter punches were simply used more often than others; like the “S”, “A” and “T” punch. So, if one these broke, perhaps a single replacement was hurriedly ordered, or perhaps a spare, of the most used punches were kept in supply. Then too, they could have been already pre-made by the manufacture by size/type, well in advance, and ordered by piece from known outside punch manufactures. I would think that if several punches broke, over a few years, it is also reasonable to think that occasionally an entire set might be purchased, as the sighted existent records above have occasionally shown. Therefore, the end result to my speculation, is that after a decade, there could have been something along the lines of a small divisional box with two “U” punches, three “T” punches, two “E” punches, a single “C” punch, etc. These would be all stored and separated in this same wooden box.

Lastly, before we delve further into specific broken punches, I want to state that at times, due to die wear actually wearing out the top sections of lettering on some very late worn dies, this sometimes gave the visual impression of open or broken tops on legend letters (bifurcation). This is the same metal flow process that is responsible for the “notched” bottoms on legend letters and is not due to a broken punch. Again, I mention this because I want you to know that when anything like this came to my attention, I would immediately verify if this was, or was not the case, by viewing my image database, of earlier “prime” die states.

Capped Bust Half Dollar Broken Punches

1807: Broken “I” Punch

The first damaged punch that I could identify on the Capped Bust Halves shows up in the first year of issue - 1807. This is in the form of a broken “I” punch used in the date. The “I” punch that was used for the earlier Draped Bust halves for this year was a considerably larger and different punch. On this smaller “I” Capped Bust half punch, the left lower serif was broken off. On the first year Capped Bust Design Type, it occurs on two, of the four Capped Bust varieties for this year – 1807, O-111 and O-113 (with a little touch-up graver work by John Reich on O-113).



Fig. 1.

*Broken 1 punch -
lower left Serif (1808, O-110)*

1808: Broken "1" Punch

This very same broken "1" punch's use was continued on the following varieties in 1808: O- 101, O-102, O-103, O-104, O-106, O-107, O-108 and O-110. In a few instances, with the 1808's, I can see where Reich made an attempt to fix it, by working on the serif a bit, with addition-

al minute graver work. For example, on O-101, after overdating the "7", he apparently tried to engrave a "nub" like serif on the left bottom stand of the "1".

1810: Broken "R" Punch in AMERICA

Two years later, on the O-106, this variety displays a broken "R" punch, and today when you examine this variety there is a beautiful repaired top to the "R" in AMERICA. The right edge of the upright broke away at a slant, and the broken area of the punch is plainly visible even on lower grade specimens. The top right outside curve of the "R" also shows a clean break away of the punch piece. Reich engraved this top, rather skillfully, which is probably why, to my knowledge; it has gone unmentioned in the major references until this time.



*Fig. 2. 1810 O-106 Broken and
repaired "R" top in AMERICA*

1811: Broken Top “D” Punch in UNITED

The very next year, in 1811, the broken “D” punch, mentioned at the beginning of this study, was used in UNITED on O-109. What a beauty!

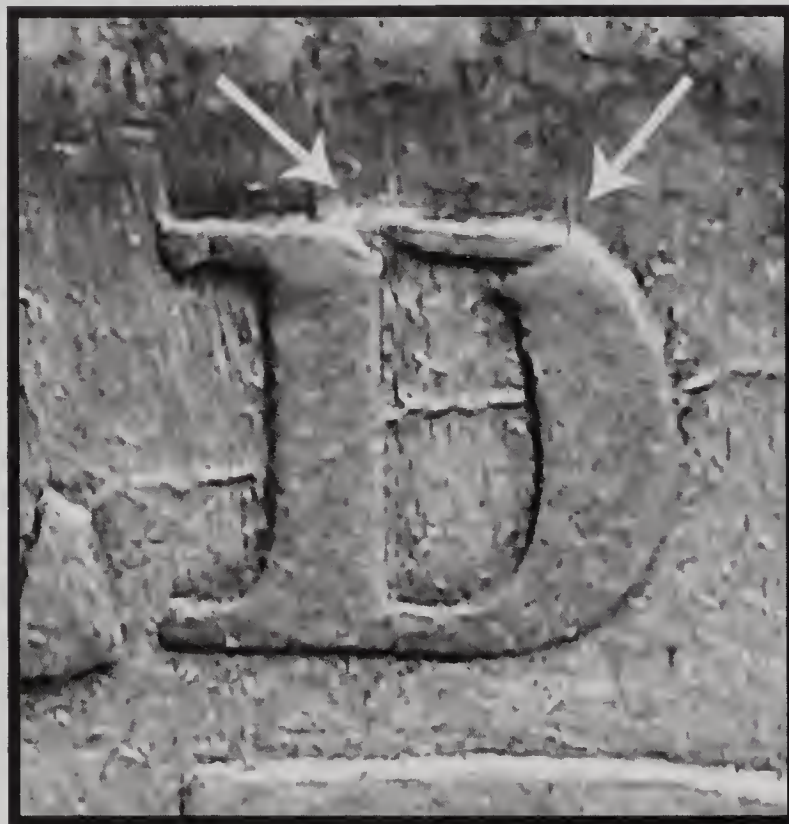


Fig. 3. Broken and repaired “D” of UNITED on 1811, O-109

1813: Broken “N” Punch in UNITED

Another two years went by without any broken punch problems, and then in 1813, the “N” punch broke. This break occurred at the right upright, top, on the left side. The left serif completely broke away. This neat feature shows up on O-101, O-107 and O-108. The seven other varieties for 1813 show the normal “N” punch. When I first viewed this “N”, I thought that perhaps this was a partial punch, with serifs added later. However, after viewing several in various high grades, including several AU and a few MS pieces, and then doing several overlays, I became convinced that the upright of this particular “N” punch was in fact complete and with the serifs as part of the punch. In the image below (Fig 4.), on the far left you can see what the Normal “N” looked like on O-103, and the rest of the varieties for this year as well. The middle and right photos show the broken “N”. The overlays created on my computer in Photoshop CS4 – are a perfect match. Also, note that the right upright has a slight bow inward, or curve to the upright, on all these pieces. These all line up in a triple overlay. Therefore, this was a

complete punch, and not a multiple piece punch. Interestingly, you can also see some internal chipping in the bottom of the V-like shape on the O-101.

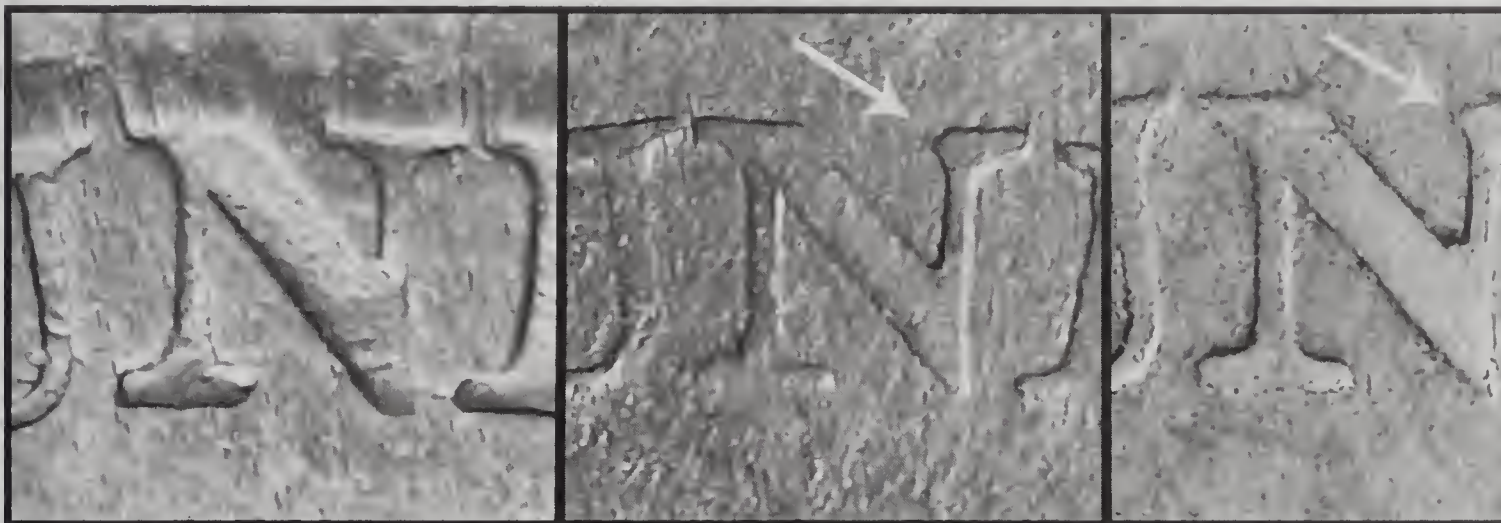


Fig. 4. Left, is the Normal "N". Middle, the Broken "N" on O-108, and on the right is the same Broken "N" on O-101

1814: Broken "F" Punch

In 1814, on O-103, O-108 and O-109, all three varieties show the "F", of OF, with a broken upper left serif. On mid to high-grade pieces I can still see "traces" of a few parts the top left serif, which is slightly different from variety to variety. This suggests some very slight progressive crumbling of the punch at this spot. I am not positively sure of the cause, but due to this crumbling effect, and the porosity of this very tiny area at 150X under the microscope, I suspect that rust was eating into the punch. It is also the very same punch used later on the 1815 O-101 which shows that Reich attempted to complete this serif with a full graver cut. Since I could trace this punch being used even later (some not so obvious and others very obvious), on further reverse working dies, with various looking different fixes, it's not necessary to display them all here. Just know that this "F" punch was apparently considered good enough by Reich to continue using it, and then just touching up his work.

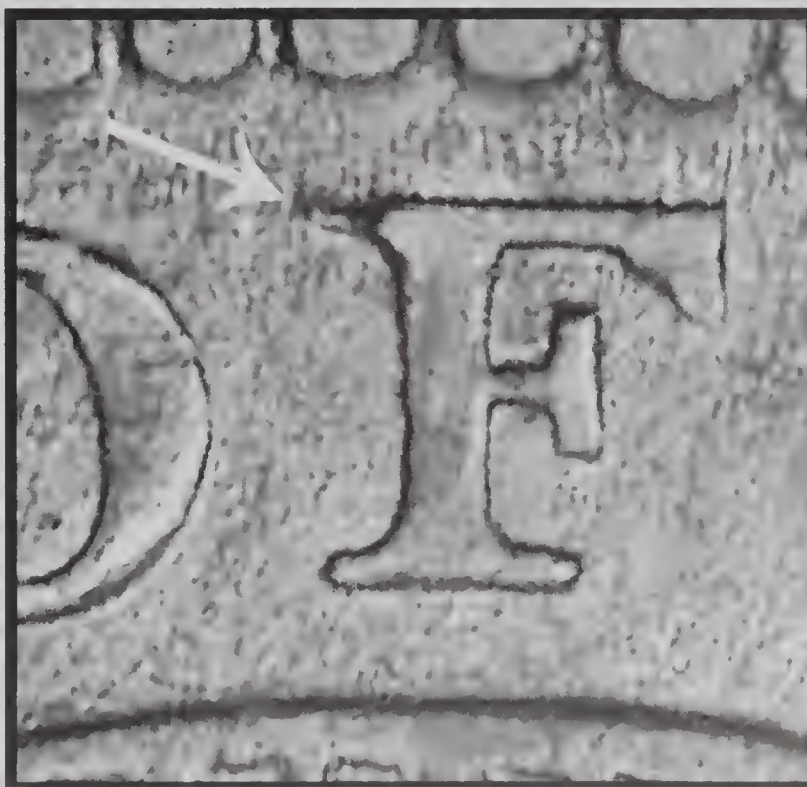


Fig. 5. 1814 & 1815 (shown) Broken "F" Punch

1817: Broken and Repaired “I” Punch

Most collectors today are familiar with the broken “I” punch used for the famous “UNJTED” and “AMERJCA” on the rare 1817/14, O-102 and on the popular 1817, O-103 “Punctuated Date”, (same Rev. B). This reverse die often goes by the moniker of the “AMERJCA” reverse, which plainly shows that the punch broke completely away from the bottom right hand side of the I, at an angle, leaving the impression that looks like the letter “J”. Since only a few collectors can ever hope to own the 1817/14 (less than 10 known) many go after the 1817, O-103, Punctuated Date to view the same “AMERJCA” reverse die. But did you know that this broken punch was used again, not once, but at least twice more in this year? And in both cases attempts were made to “fix” it? That’s right. The 1817/13, O-101’ and 1817, O-108’s respective reverse working dies were made using this very same broken punch! Except in this use of the broken “I” punch the engraver hand engraved part of the bottom of the “I”, in an attempt to straighten it out, and he also added the right lower serif back on - basically using a single graver cut! It appears that he started this cut from the right end of the serif and slowly brought up the graver tip as he reached the other existing serif along the bottom left hand side. Although the repair job wasn’t perfect, and you can still see traces of the broken edge of the “I”, apparently “it was good enough for government work”. Amazingly, later, all through 1818 and 1819 I can still see usage of this same broken “I” fixed with varying degrees of workmanship. (For examples, view your 1818, O-107, 1818, O-109 and 1819, O-102.

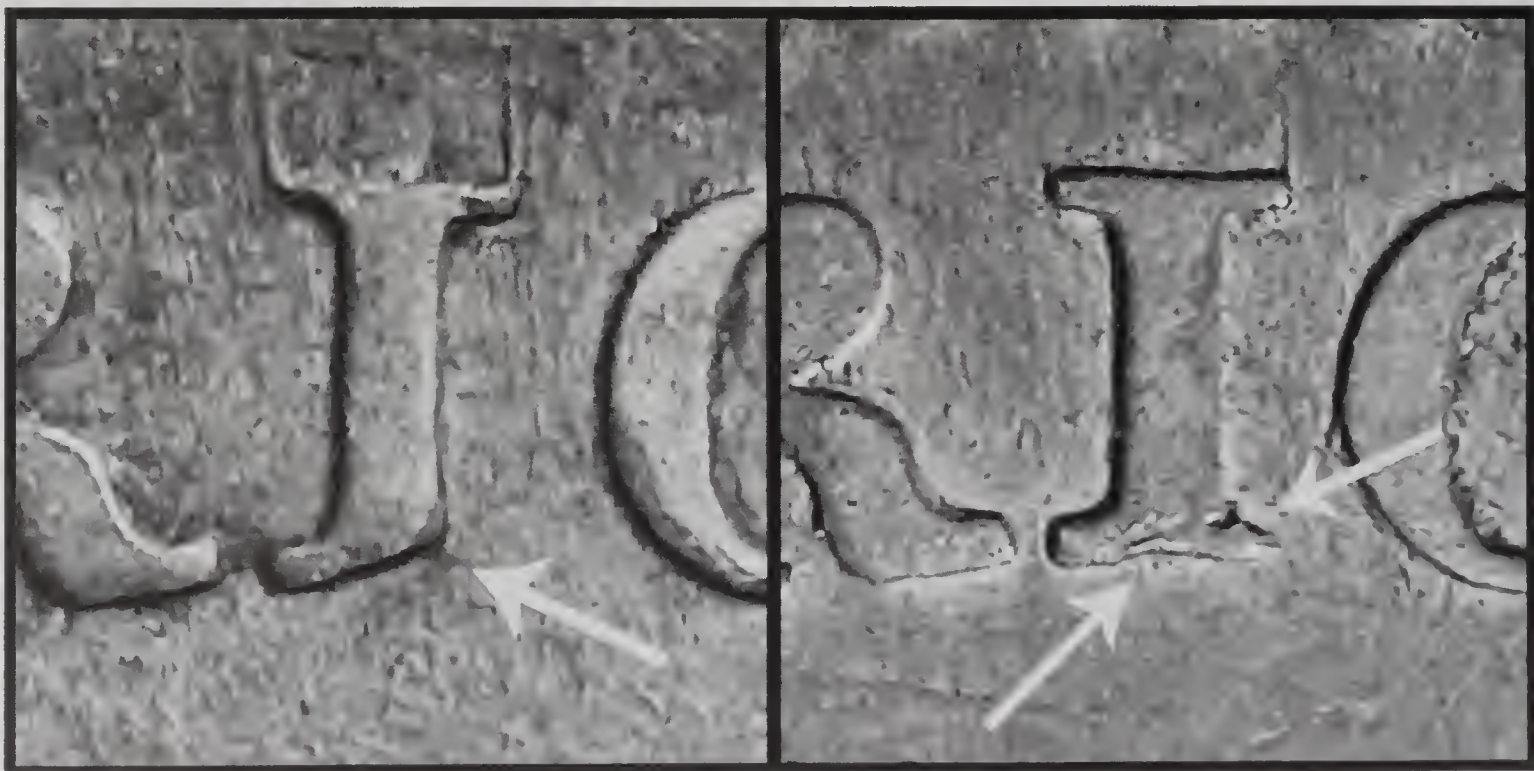


Fig. 6. Left shows Broken “I” reverse 1817/14 O-102 & O-103. Right shows fixed “I” punch on O-101

1818: Broken 8 Punch

The highly sought after 1818 O-108 “Pincer 8’s” variety, shows both “8” numerals of the date with a section broken out of the top loop. The broken punch used on this working die is likely from the hand of Robert Scot, as Reich had disgustingly already left the Mint in 1817. Also, this punch did not “chunk out” of the loop, with angular “pressure breaks” like on the “R” and “D” of 1810, O-106 and 1811, O-109 covered earlier. Instead, it looks like it was either dropped, and hit a solid metal corner of some object at an angle, or something heavy dropped on the punch itself, and broke the almost vertical section out of the top of the “8”.



Fig. 7. 1818 Broken “8” Punch used on O-108 (Pincer 8’s)

1819: Broken “E” Punch & Broken “T” Punch

On the 1819/18, O-104, this marriage first appeared with the upper left serifs of the “E’s” broken off (a tiny nub remains). It also appears that way on O-114 and O-115. On O-112 the top left serf is twice the length that it should be! The serif was also hand engraved on several other varieties this year, and sometimes a single “E” showed the serif at an angle, as on this 1819, O-113 in “AMERICA.” This “E” punch continued to be used in this condition for the next couple of years. Also this year, the “T” punch broke on the 1819/18, O-102, and it shows all three “T’s” broken at the bottom right base with a similar break, like that of the “I” on the “AMERIJA” reverse. Engraver Scot made some attempts to fix this on the “T”, with an angled serif that slants downward and to the right (see Fig. 8 - Far right). The other two “T’s” on this same reverse working die show this same broken section from the punch, with similar additional engraving repair work.

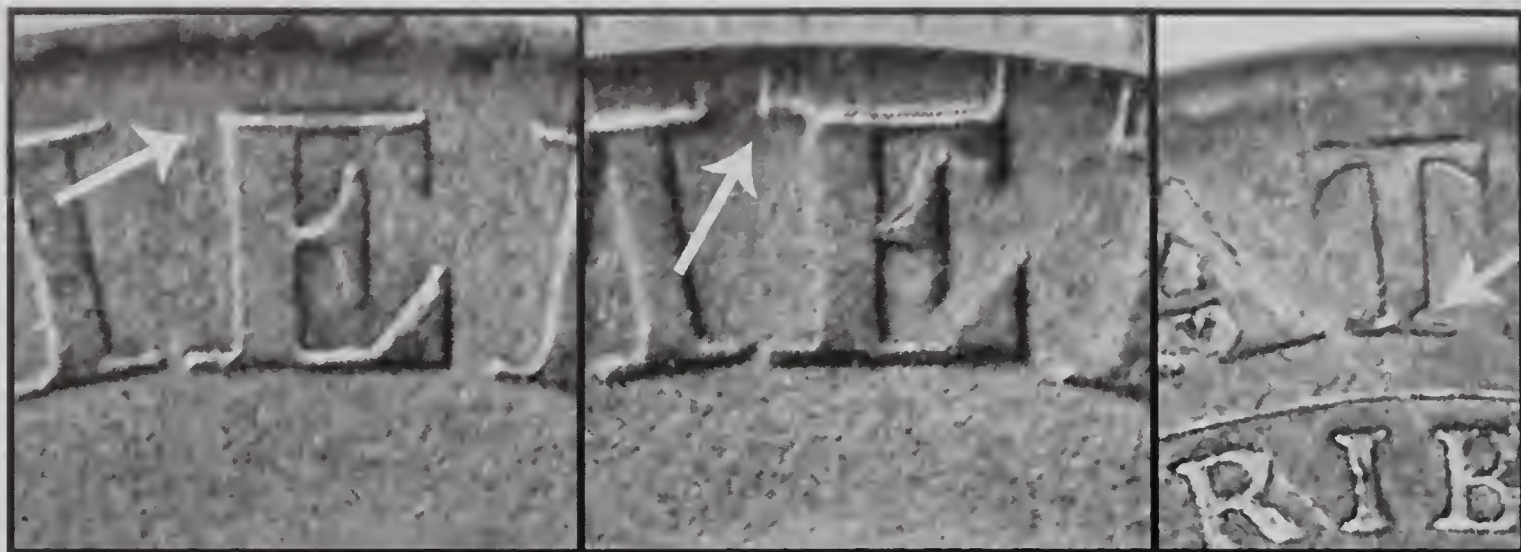


Fig. 8. Left: 1819/18, O-104, Broken "E". Middle: Repaired "E" on 1819, O-113. Right: Broken Repaired "T"

1820: Broken "A" Punch & Broken "E" Punch

The 1820/19, O-102 and the 1820, O-105 shows that the "A" punch broke and Scot recut the right serif on all three A's. This wasn't a minor chipped punch, but rather a broken punch as on the 1820 O-107. You can plainly see both the broken "A" punch not repaired and the broken "E" punch not repaired, with its little nub, from the year before (see Fig. 9 below). Scot's ability to do even simple engraving at this point was, to say the least, erratic. By the way the 1820, O-107 was actually struck in 1821 and not 1820!

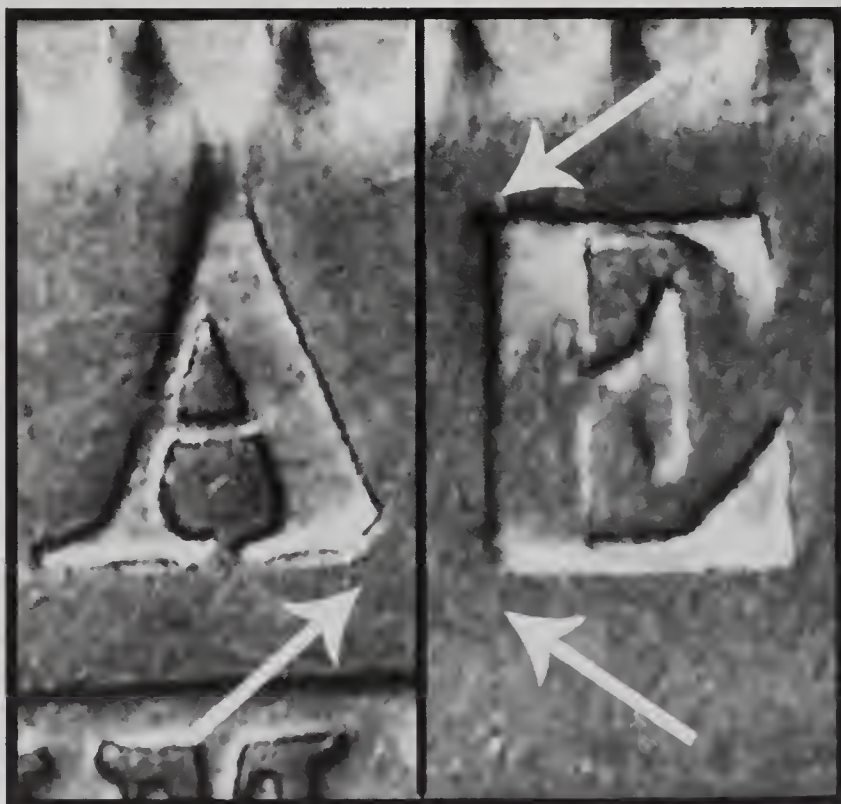


Fig. 9. 1820, O-107 Broken "A" & "E" reverse (struck in 1821)

1821: Broken “A” & “E” Punch

On 1821 O-103, it is the same Broken “A’s” and “E’s” reverse as used on the 1820, O-107 (above), but you have to remember that this reverse was used FIRST on the 1821, O-103 (Rev. C) and THEN later it was used to strike coins with the 1820 obverse on, O-107 (Rev. F). So, just understand that even though these were labeled in the Overton book as Rev. C and Rev. F., they are both the exact same reverse working die. This may seem a bit confusing, at first read, but nevertheless it is an accurate statement. The legend lettering punch set seems to have been on its last leg, and it is noticeable that an entirely new punch set came into play during this year. From this point, there is a significant improvement in all of the legend letters on the 1822 reverse working dies, and beyond.

1822: New Broken “A” Punch

It didn’t take long before that pesky problem with the “A” punch returned, as on Rev H. of 1822, O-109 it shows that the inner right serif broke off from the new “A” punch. It showed up again on O-112, O-113, O-114 and O-115 with a few very minute and unsuccessful attempts to correct it. Later in 1823 this punch is used on O-102 of that year, but this was a carry over reverse die from 1822. A few reverses show it the following year, in its broken form, namely 1823, O-102, O-104, O-108 and O-109 (with some touch-up attempts), but that seems to be the last use for this punch missing the serif. And, overall, this was the last broken punch problem with legend letters. With the remote exception possibly of the “T’s” (see comments below) I could find no other possible broken legend letter punches through the end of the lettered-edge Capped Bust halves in 1836.

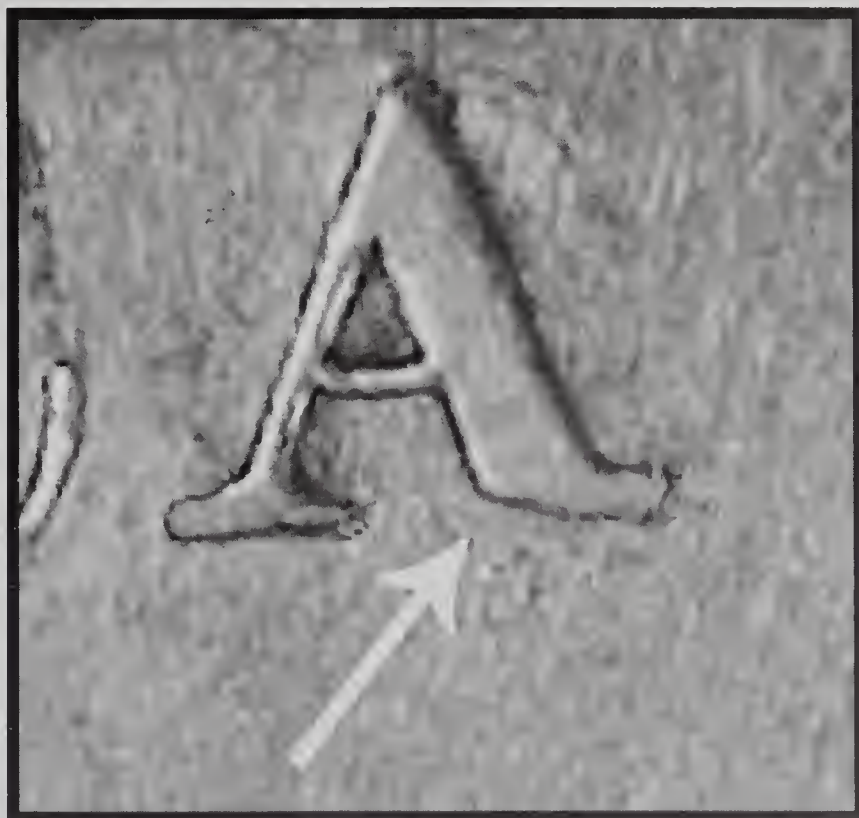


Fig. 10. Broken “A” Punch from new punch set

1823: Broken “3” Punch

There has been much written over the years as to the creation of the interesting broken “3” punch used on 1823, O-101 which was later “fixed” crudely with a small rectangular punch that, more or less, corrected one type of flawed design for another (used on O-101a and O-102). I believe this to be some of Robert Scot’s very last attempts at work before he died in November of 1823. Overton speculated that the crude “3” might have been made from a partial “2” punch that was altered, and then “patched” thereby strengthening the “3”. When I wrote about this in *Bust Half Fever*, I mentioned having made overlay acetate tracings from macro photographs of the “2” punches used in 1822. None matched, and therefore in my opinion, the partial “2” punch theory had been disproved beyond a shadow of a doubt. I then compared the broken “3” with overlays of the other 1823 varieties and over half the varieties matched. And, in fact, only four varieties of the known thirteen did not match, and these four varieties had wider, squat, hand-cut “3’s”. My final opinion was that the new “3” punch was just a very unfinished punch, that at first was thought to be a good enough representation. When it became obvious that it wasn’t, then with further use, it shows microscopically that this junction area was reengraved individually on each obverse working die – right where the two half circles meet. Also, some of the LDS’s, of a couple varieties show die cracks in this area with progressive chipping of the dies. This made for some pretty strange “3” junctions (like the “Ugly 3” variety, O-110a). After I published the above tests that I performed in *Bust Half Fever*, an early die state of O-110’s “Perfect 3” was seen with a minor “broken 3” – it was just a slight gap up between the upper and lower loops of the “3” numeral, and this area appears to have quickly chipped, or otherwise “fixed”.



Fig. 11. 1823 “Broken 3”, O-101 & “Patched 3”, O-101a & O-102

Additional Punch Considerations

It's interesting that certain punches seemed to last, and last, without an instance of a serious destruction of certain designs. The "U" for instance, seems to have held its own, over the decades, very much like the "S", "O" and "C" punch. Perhaps the curving shape, in the overall design of these letters, simply helped to strengthen them, due to the way metal flowed up, and around, from them as they were sunk into the softened working die face.

And then there is the consideration of partial punches. For example, it certainly appears under magnification that the crossbars of the "A's" were added later, after the upside down V shape was punched. Many are higher (engraved deeper), than the rest of the "A" design. That is to say, at least in the early years up to around the early 1820s when the punch sets then improved dramatically. The "M" is another letter punch that may have been a partial, or even two-piece punch, due to the complexity of the design. I could find varying widths between the two stands, from year to year, and in some cases from same year, reverse die to reverse die. Certainly, several show recutting along the stands, or bent or curved stands. But, after comparing dozens of these features in overlay form, I cannot positively state that this partial, or two-piece punch theory, is correct.

The "E" punch, "F" punch, "T" punch and "I" punch, in some years, on specific varieties, seem to have slightly longer serifs, here or there. For example, one of the three "E's" might have a longer top or bottom serif. These appear to be touch-ups on most, but then on a few I could trace them to another example later that looked exactly the same in the overlays. Perhaps a coincidence. On the other hand, could it be possible that at some mid-point between 1807 and 1823, a single punch was used that had only the basic "T" letter without serifs at the bottom? It's possible, I suppose, but the majority certainly had them as part of the punch. And if this were not the case, could a T punch have escaped my study efforts and had BOTH lower serifs break off at the very same time, then perhaps John Reich or Robert Scot would have cleaned them up a bit, and then started adding just those specific serifs by hand? Logically, after discovering that the broken "I" punch (UNJTED and AMERJCA) was used over, and over again, then completed by hand engraving the bottom corner on it, and I could trace that, I seriously doubted that an effort would be made to clean up a broken "T" punch, repeatedly yet go unnoticed.

Even so, aside from my further questions and ramblings, at least we now have a better understanding of the punches that were used to complete our Capped Bust Half dollar reverse working dies. And, though some specific broken punch questions may never

be answered, I feel we have succeeded in visiting a small specific area in the creation process of our early Federal coinage - from a little wider point of view. In doing so, along with my next planned study of punches used on the LIBERTY headband and E PLURIBUS UNUM on the Scroll, I hope to present to you still another piece of the puzzle. We will do this through the microscopic observation of our early engravers work, and their oftentimes hidden details, of Capped Bust Half Dollar Secrets.

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Finest Known 1829 Half Dime Variety Discovered

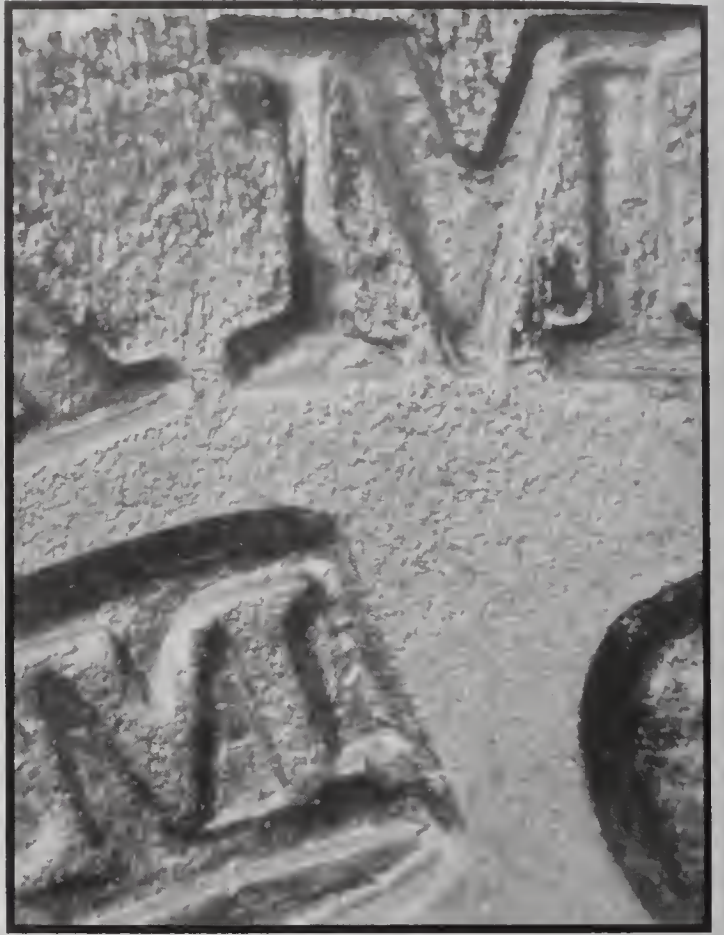
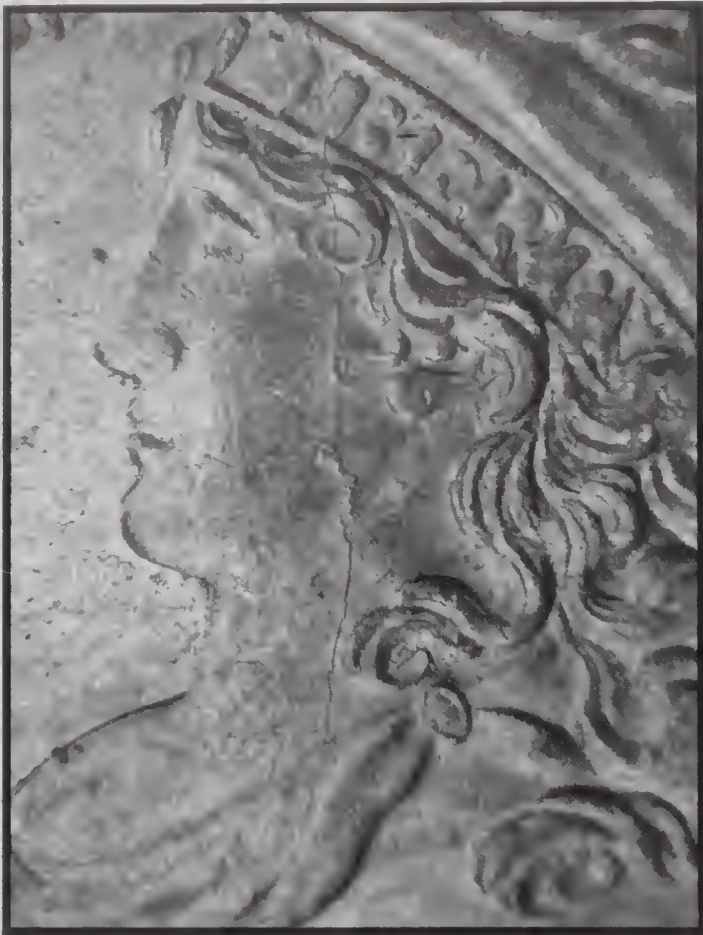
David W. Lange

A recent grading submission to NGC included a mix of miscellaneous gold and silver coins, one of which was an 1829 half dime for which the submitter requested VarietyPlus attribution. It took just a moment or two to identify its obverse by the distinctly repunched top to numeral 1 in the date. Obverse 4 in *Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837*, by Russell J. Logan and John W. McCloskey, this die is known in various states and paired with no less than six reverse dies. Only a couple minutes more were spent in determining which die pairing was involved, as the reverse die bears distinctive pitting on the underside of the banner carrying the Latin motto—LM-18 it is. That's where things got really fun.

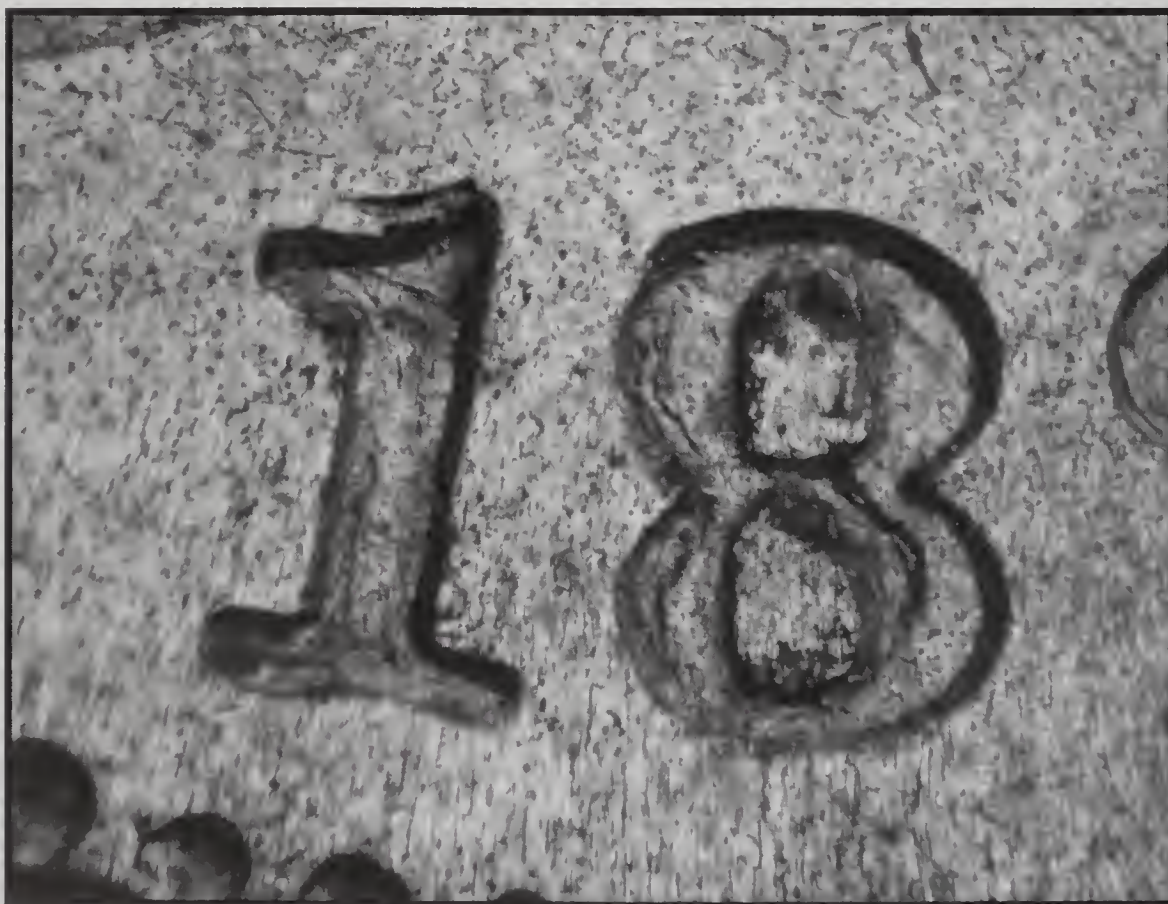
The vast majority of half dime attributions made at NGC turn out to be common varieties. This is true because submitters tend to seek attribution for high grade coins alone, the ones most likely to be of common varieties (when rare varieties are knowingly submitted they often fail to qualify for numeric grading, and coins given Details Grading alone don't appear in our census). As this coin had already been graded MS-64 by the first NGC grader who had seen it, I was expecting yet another type coin issue. Instead, I was pleased at just how scarce this variety is in high grades. The Logan/McCloskey reference implies that the finest known is an About Uncirculated coin seen in a 1991 auction. Since their book was published more than ten years ago, could it be possible that this information was obsolete?

I then started reading backwards in past issues of *The John Reich Journal* until I found what I was seeking—the most recent survey of notable half dime collections (May 2008). Here was confirmation of this R-5 variety's rarity in high grades—the best coins known among the top collections were three entries grading AU-58. As soon as this newly discovered specimen was finalized and encapsulated by NGC as MS-64, I notified the delighted owner, who was unaware of its significance until then and wishes to remain anonymous.

This coin is well struck from a slightly earlier die state than that of the plate coin in Logan/McCloskey. The die crack that connects stars 3-4 to the rim at two places is less developed, though all other features are similar to the plate coin. It has light, milky toning overall, with flecks of gold within the reverse legend and steel gray toning on both rims.









Sometimes we buy the Coin, Sometimes the Story And Sometimes the Story comes after the Coin is Purchased

David W. Perkins, NLG

In this case someone bought the coin, in 1986. Likely all they knew of the story was from the catalog description. In this case the coin was Lot 1326 in Heritage Numismatic Auctions 1986 A.N.A. Mid-Winter Auction sale, February 20-22, 1986 held in Salt Lake City. This coin was plated in black and white on page 42 of the sale catalog, with an obverse photo in color included on page 41.

1796 Flowing Hair Dollar MS (60/60). B-5. Rarity-1. An alluring golden-grey and iridescent blue toned specimen with an illustrious pedigree, being purchased from the numismatically immortal B. Max Mehl in February, 1954. Sharply struck in all areas, showing only minor weakness in breast feather detail. A few scattered hairlines and a small dent at the base of Liberty take nothing away from the overall beauty of this piece. (Flip Enclosed).

The 1795 B-5 die marriage is a relatively common one; this specimen is somewhat rarer due to the Mint State grade.

The catalog noted at the top of page 42:

These 25 early American dollars [Lots 1321-1345] constitute the major portion of the collection of a famous American Numismatist from Louisiana. Although HNAI was unable to use this gentleman's name, advanced Bolender collectors will decipher the owner's name due to the uniqueness of these properties. We trust that you will derive as much pleasure from viewing these as we did in cataloguing them; and for those of you fortunate to acquire one of these treasures, rest assured that you will have found a heritage of numismatists that undoubtably [sic] will be difficult to duplicate.

These silver dollars were from the collection of Frank M. Stirling of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Frank Stirling died in Baton Rouge on September 18, 1984 at the age of 78. Stirling was a true and knowledgeable Numismatist. And as a side note, this was not the major portion of his collection; none-the-less this was an exceptional offering of 25 early silver dollars.

Now for the fun part. In April 2005 I acquired copies of Frank Stirling's correspondence and notes from the Stirling family. In looking through these files the other day I came across a number of letters between Stirling and B. Max Mehl, the famous Fort Worth coin dealer, a couple of which shed some additional light on this coin.

In a letter dated February 2nd, 1954 [it is interesting to note in the photo accompanying this article how Mehl wrote the date] Mehl wrote:

Thank you for your prompt report on the selection of silver dollars sent to you under date of the 25th ult. [sic]

I have only two really choice 1795 flowing hair dollars. They are herewith enclosed on approval. These two come from the same collection from which the other choice dollars came from. The gentleman who collected these coins over a period of some thirty-five years, collected the best available specimens. They have been in this collection more than a quarter of a century. I do not recall of ever having handled any nicer specimens.

There is a balance due from your former invoice which you will observe I have given you cr dit for on this invoice. Your prompt attention will be appreciated.

With kind regards,

Cordially yours,

Stirling had a particular fondness for the Flowing Hair Dollars of 1795, with an emphasis on quality and rarity (his collection had / has a number of R-7 and R-8 1795 Flowing Hair Dollars, along with many other rarities). Included with this letter was an invoice for two Flowing Hair Dollars, one with "three leaves under wings and one with two leaves under wings." No Bolender or Haseltine Numbers were given.

Lot 1 was priced at \$150.00 and described on the invoice as follows:

1795 dollar. First type, flowing hair. Variety with three leaves under wings. Uncirculated, bold impression and beautifully toned. At catalog price, \$150.00.

Armed with a good knowledge of the early dollars, the 1986 Heritage sale catalog and the lot descriptions along with Stirling's notes and records I was able to determine that Lot 1 on the invoice is the same as Lot 1326 in the 1986 sale. Stirling paid \$150.00 for this 1795 B-2 Dollar and wrote a check for \$145.00 to B. Max Mehl on February 5, 1954 for the purchase.

From the next letter, this one dated February 8th, 1954 from Mehl to Stirling we learn a little more about the transaction and pedigree:

Many thanks for your prompt remittance of \$145.00 and the return of the other 1795 Dollar in full settlement of your account to date.

I appreciate very much your promptness and your business.

Unfortunately, in purchasing this fine collection, the owner did not have a record of each and every piece just where he got them from, but I know they came from such collections as the Dunham, Roe and Atwater. Should I find records of them, I shall be glad to send them on to you....

Cordially yours,

You can see from this letter than Stirling inquired about the pedigree of this specimen. Many of us have done this numerous times in the past, sometimes with success and sometimes not. In this case, any one of the three names (Dunham, Roe and Atwater) would greatly add to the provenance of this specimen.

However, it is unlikely we will be able to determine which of the three collections this specimen came from, or if it came from one of them for sure. But we have managed to connect the coin with prominent Numismatist owner's name, add a story to the coin along with a couple of neat letters, an invoice and a cancelled check. And three great names that "might be."

I love coins with stories, even if in this case the story may never be completely known.



1326 1795 Flowing Hair MS (60/60). B-5. Rarity 1. An alluring golden-grey and iridescent blue toned specimen with an illustrious pedigree, being purchased from the numismatically immortal B. Max Mehl in February, 1954. Sharply struck in all areas, showing only minor weakness in breast feather detail. A few scattered hairlines and a small dent at the base of Liberty take nothing away from the overall beauty of this piece. (Flip Enclosed).

Fig. 1.

1795 B-2, BB-20 Silver Dollar. This was Lot 1326 in Heritage Numismatic Auctions 1986 A.N.A. Mid-Winter Auction sale, February 20-22, 1986 held in Salt Lake City.

B. MAX MEHL
Numismatist

*Importer of and Dealer in
Rare Coins, Medals and Paper Money
of all Countries and Periods*

APPROVAL DEPARTMENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

February 2nd
of my 54th Numismatic Year
1 9 5 4.

Mr. Frank M. Stirling,
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Mr. Stirling:-

Thank you for your prompt report on the selection
of silver dollars sent you under date of the 25th ult.

I have only two really choice 1795 Flowing Hair
dollars. They are herewith enclosed on approval. These two
come from the same collection from which the other choice
dollars came from. The gentleman who collected these coins
over a period of some thirty-five years, collected the best
available specimens. They have been in this collection for
more than a quarter of a century. I do not recall of ever
having handled any nicer specimens.

There is a balance of \$5.00 due you from your former
invoice which you will observe I have given you credit for on
this invoice. Your prompt attention will be appreciated.

With kind regards,

Cordially yours,

BMM/ME.

QUOTATIONS CHEERFULLY MADE WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST OBLIGATION ON YOUR PART. SELECTIONS FROM MY
LARGE STOCK SENT ON APPROVAL TO PARTIES WHOSE GOOD STANDING IS KNOWN TO ME.

Fig. 2.
Letter from B. Max Mehl on his stationery to Frank Stirling offering two choice 1795 Flowing Hair Dollars for sale. Note the clever way Mehl typed the date in the upper right column of the letter.



B. MAX MEHL

Numismatist

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

SELECTIONS CONSIGNED ON APPROVAL

TELEPHONE

2-6451

CABLE ADDRESS

"MEHL, FORT WORT

To Mr. Frank M. Stirling,
2919 Fairfield Avenue, Baton Rouge 7, La.

Shipped Via Air Registered

February 2nd, 1954.

THESE GOODS ARE SENT ON CONSIGNMENT AND APPROVAL, AND THE TITLE IN THE CONSIGNOR DOES NOT PASS UNTIL THEY ARE PAID FOR

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	1795 Dollar. First type, flowing hair. Variety with three leaves under wings. Uncirculated, bold impression and beautifully toned. At catalog price,	\$ 150.00		
2	1795 Dollar. Flowing hair. Two leaves under wings. Practically uncirculated. Rare.	75.00		
		<hr/>		
		\$ 225.00		
	Credit due	\$ 5.00		
		<hr/>		
	Balance due	\$ 220.00		

Fig. 3.

Invoice for the two 1795 Flowing Hair Dollars accompanying Mehl's letter of February 2nd, 1954. The silver dollar offered as "No. 1" for \$150.000 is the 1795 B-2 Dollar offered as Lot 1326 in the 1986 Heritage sale.

B. MAX MEHL
Numismatist

*Importer of and Dealer in
Rare Coins, Medals and Paper Money
of all Countries and Periods*

APPROVAL DEPARTMENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Air Mail

February 8th
of my 54th Numismatic Year
1 9 5 4.

Mr. Frank M. Stirling,
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Mr. Stirling:-

Many thanks for your prompt remittance of
\$145.00 and the return of the other 1795 Dollar in
full settlement of your account to date.

I appreciate very much your promptness and
your business.

Unfortunately, in purchasing this fine
collection, the owner did not have a record of each
and every piece just where he got them from, but I
know they came from such collections as the Dunham,
Roe and Atwater. Should I find records of them, I
shall be glad to send them on to you.

At any time I can be of any other service
to you, shall be glad to hear from you.

Again many thanks, and with kind regards
I am

Cordially yours,



BM/MF.

QUOTATIONS CHEERFULLY MADE WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST OBLIGATION ON YOUR PART. SELECTIONS FROM MY
LARGE STOCK SENT ON APPROVAL TO PARTIES WHOSE GOOD STANDING IS KNOWN TO ME.

Fig. 4.
Letter from Mehl to Stirling thanking him for the purchase of the 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar for \$150.00. The net price to Stirling was \$145.00 with the \$5.00 credit Stirling had from a previous transaction with Mehl. Note the potential pedigree information in the third paragraph.

No. _____ BATON ROUGE, LA. Feb 5, 1954 84-15
652

AMERICAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY

PAY TO THE ORDER OF B. Max Mehl \$145.00

One Hundred and forty five and 00/100 DOLLARS

Wm. M. Stirling




Fig. 5.

Copy of Stirling's check dated Feb. 5, 1954 to Mehl for \$145.00 for the purchase of the 1795 Dollar.

The John Reich Collectors Society wants you!

To recruit one new member to our organization, copy this membership
or direct them to our new website, www.jrcs.org.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Office Use Only

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Type or Print

Name _____
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)

Address _____

_____ Date of Birth _____
(Month) (Date) (Year)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

The purpose of The John Reich Collectors Society ("JRCS") is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States silver and gold coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins. A member's name and address will not be included in any membership directory issued by JRCS or be disclosed to others without prior consent of such member.

Check the appropriate space below:

_____ Collector _____ Collector-Dealer _____ Dealer (Firm Name) _____

Indicate your area(s) of interest in Early United States Coins:

- | | |
|--|--|
| a _____ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dimes | h _____ Capped Bust Quarter Dollars |
| b _____ Draped Bust Half Dimes | i _____ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dollars |
| c _____ Capped Bust Half Dimes | j _____ Draped Bust Half Dollars |
| d _____ Draped Bust Small Eagle Dimes | k _____ Capped Bust Half Dollars |
| e _____ Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle Dimes | l _____ Flowing Hair Bust Dollars |
| f _____ Capped Bust Dimes | m _____ Draped Bust Dollars |
| g _____ Draped Bust Quarter Dollars | n _____ Gold Issues |

I hereby apply for membership in JRCS. As required by the By-Laws of JRCS I agree to pay promptly all my debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I enclose a check or money order for \$25.00 payable to "John Reich Collectors Society" for my annual membership contribution, or \$625.00 for a life membership in the Society.

Dated: _____
(Signature of applicant)

If applying for reinstatement, please give your former JRCS member # _____

Guarantee (if Applicant is under 21 years):

I guarantee payment by the Applicant of his/her debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I am 21 years or older.

(Signature of Guarantor)

Relation to Applicant _____

Sponsor's Statement:

I sponsor the above Applicant for membership in JRCS.
My JRCS member number is # _____

(Signature of Sponsor Member)

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